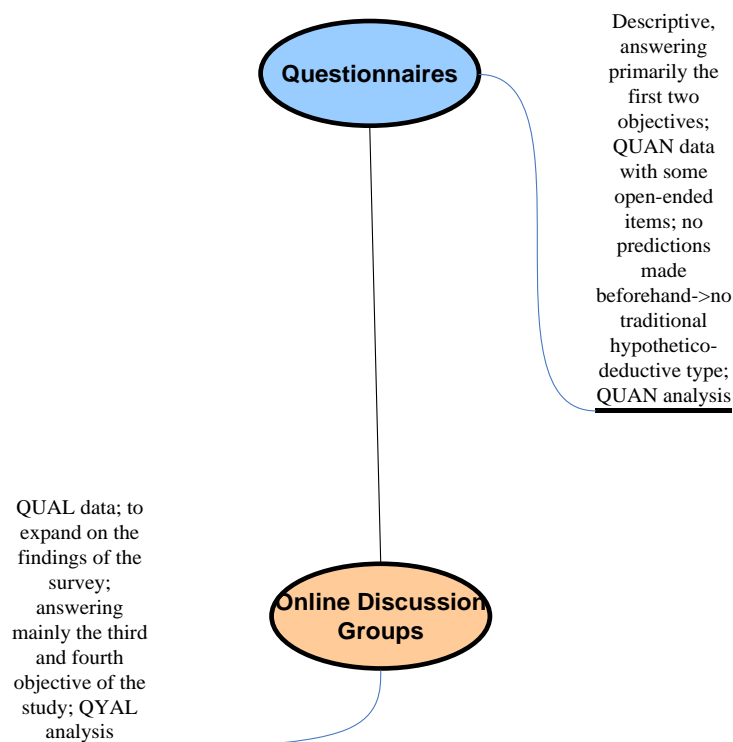


The poster outlines how pragmatism informed and provided the philosophical and epistemological underpinning for a PhD study of mixed methodology in the field of occupational therapy.

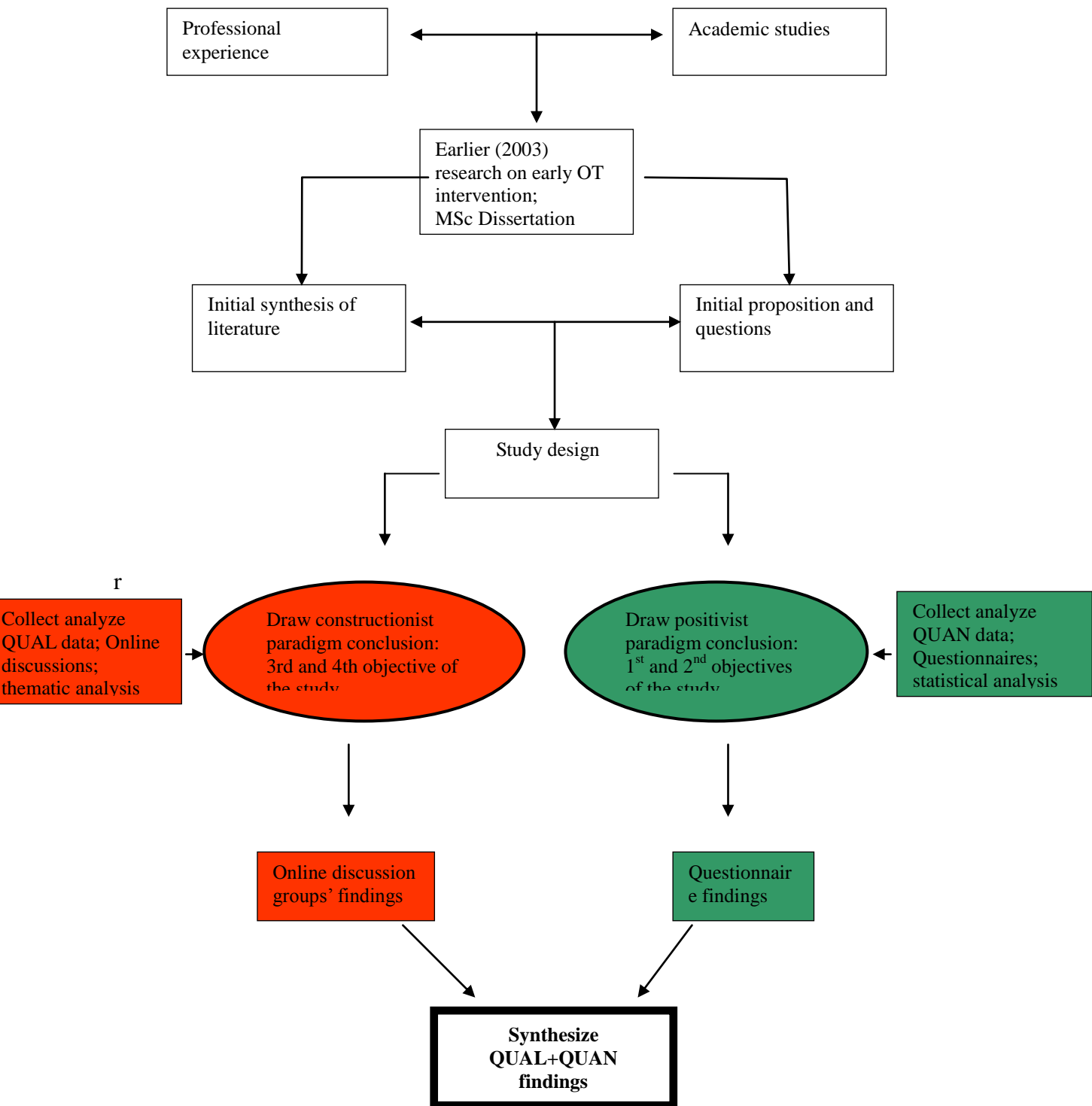
At the beginning, the assumptions of pragmatism are explored. The notions of ontology, epistemology, axiology and logic are explored and compared to those of positivistic and constructivist paradigms.

Following this, the “appeal” of pragmatism for studies using mixed methodology is explored and explained. In pragmatism, choices about tools and ways to investigate a topic have to do with the desired outcomes and the type of the research question(s). Therefore a “democratic” process that would involve a mixed methodology is often the one of choice. Such a process is believed to increase the likelihood that a wider rather than a narrower range of meanings is reviewed and not be arbitrarily dismissed due to a strict “commitment” to one philosophical paradigm. The poster explains why the dichotomy between quantitative and qualitative approaches is no longer valid and how pragmatism actually serves the purpose of philosophically embracing the use of both quantitative and qualitative elements within the same inquiry, representing a flexible, applied research philosophy.

Finally, examples of how the current PhD study, which explored the occupational therapists' views on the difficulties children who were born preterm present within their academic performance, combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies with the use of a pragmatic prism are presented, and the entire conceptual model of the research process is presented with the use of graphs such as those below.



Visual presentation of combining the stages of the study



Conceptual Model of the Research Process

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